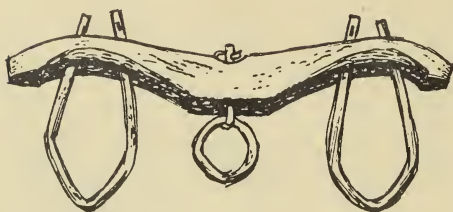


973.7L63    Lincoln Historical  
A3L638h    Fund Campaign  
              (Chicago, Ill.)

How you can help save the great  
Lincoln Historical Collection:  
The Barrett Lincoln Collection.

# LINCOLN ROOM



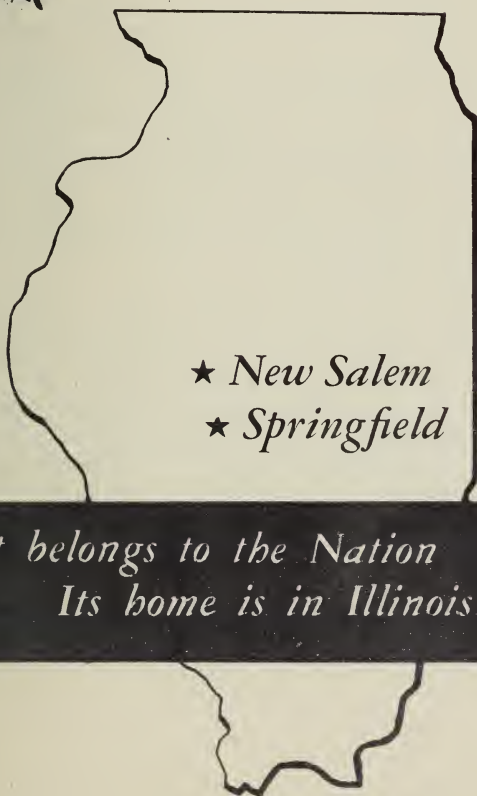
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
LIBRARY

MEMORIAL  
THE CLASS OF 1901  
founded by  
THE HORNERS

# HOW YOU CAN HELP SAVE THE GREAT LINCOLN HISTORICAL COLLECTION



*The Barrett Lincoln Collection*



★ *New Salem*

★ *Springfield*

*It belongs to the Nation  
Its home is in Illinois*

## *What is this Lincoln Historical Collection?*

It is the largest, most complete and most important *private* collection of Lincoln material in the world. It consists of letters, manuscripts, speeches, pardons, proclamations written or signed by the Civil War President; letters to and about Lincoln; newspapers, paintings, photographs and relics of Lincoln and his times. The collection is so large and so important that Carl Sandburg has written a full-length book, *Lincoln Collector: The Story of Oliver R. Barrett's Great Private Collection*, merely to describe it. It is a full record of Lincoln the man, the statesman, the President. It is the private Lincoln collection assembled in his lifetime by Oliver R. Barrett.

## *Who was Oliver R. Barrett?*

He was an Illinois lawyer who died in March 1950, leaving to his estate this great Lincoln collection. He had spent his life following the "Lincoln trail," searching for Lincoln material. Growing up in the Lincoln country—Pittsfield and Jacksonville, Illinois, that was steeped in Lincoln legend and lore—Barrett found people still living who had known Lincoln, who had stories to tell about him, who had kept letters written by Lincoln to members of their families, who treasured articles—a dish, a garment, a cane—once belonging to Abraham Lincoln. Barrett began as a boy to collect these things, and as he acquired letters, books, relics that Lincoln had touched, the great President became a real person to him, a living, breathing personality like his next door neighbor. He wanted more and more Lincoln material, and for fifty-five years he sought and sifted, building his tremendous collection.

In his own professional life, Barrett followed Lincoln's footsteps, earning his legal training, working his way up to become a prominent attorney in Chicago. As his collection grew, he offered the use of his material to all students and historians who sought for truth in the records of Abraham Lincoln. All the important biographers of Lincoln in the last fifty years went to Barrett for information.

Because of obligations to his estate, Mr. Barrett could not, as he would have liked to do, leave his collection to the state of Illinois. It is now offered for sale by his heirs.

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Lincoln Room

## *Citizens organize to save this Lincoln collection*

Civic-minded citizens believe that the Barrett Lincoln Collection is rightfully the heritage of the people of Illinois. Public-spirited individuals all over Illinois have organized the *Lincoln Historical Fund Campaign*, to raise by voluntary contributions the \$220,000 necessary to purchase this collection. It now offers the people of the state an opportunity to buy this great collection and present it to the Illinois State Historical Library at Springfield, where the material will be available to the people of the state and the nation, for all time to come. *If this is not done*, the collection may be sold at auction, broken up, and go piecemeal into the possession of private individuals.

## *Collection cannot be purchased by special legislation*

It was Mr. Barrett's desire that his Lincoln collection never leave the state of Illinois, but it was his wish that no special legislation be enacted for its purchase.

## *How you can help*

1. *Make a generous contribution yourself.*
  2. *Urge others to contribute.*
  3. *Volunteer your services to your local committee.*
- .....

## *From the governor of Illinois*

"Every public-spirited individual and group in Illinois is being given a chance to save Oliver R. Barrett's great collection for the people of Illinois. I earnestly urge that you give your wholehearted support to this worthy cause."

*Adlai E. Stevenson, Governor*

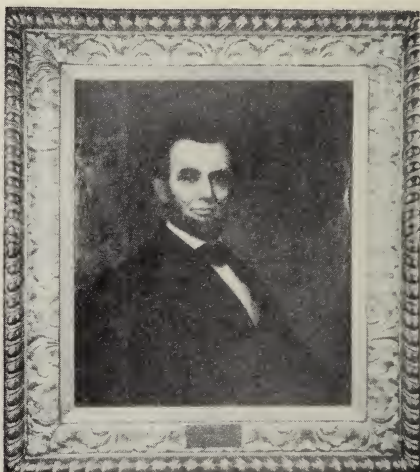
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*"These papers would serve a far more significant memorial to Abraham Lincoln than any monument of marble and brass."—Illinois State Register, Springfield.*



*Photo by Robert Buchbinder*

The greatest Lincoln writer, Carl Sandburg, with his friend Oliver R. Barrett, the greatest Lincoln collector.



*Last portrait from life*

*"The Barrett collection is so full and basic that a pretty good life of Lincoln could be written from it alone, whereas no present-day life could be written without it."*

*—Benjamin P. Thomas, author of  
"Portrait for Posterity"*



Executive Mansion  
Oct 17, 1861  
Major Ramsey

My dear Sir

The lady - bearer of  
this - says she has two sons  
who want to work - Set them  
at it, if possible - Wanting  
to work is so rare a merit,  
that it should be encouraged  
Yours truly  
A. Lincoln

"Wanting to work is so rare a want, that it should be encouraged." — A. Lincoln

Visitors at Chicago Fair view  
portions of the collection



Photo by Robert Buchbinder

*"Participation in the effort to raise the fund is commended to civic organizations, service clubs, the public schools of the state, and, in general, to all people who cherish the American Republic and the traditions of Illinois. Those who wish to help should lose no time . . ."*

*—Chicago Tribune*



### ***\$220,000 needed—now***

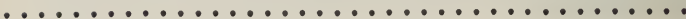
The funds to purchase the Barrett Lincoln Collection must be raised by special gifts from those who are able to make substantial contributions and by popular subscription from thousands of individuals and groups who believe that this collection should be preserved intact. Civic and patriotic organizations, schools and other groups in Illinois are at work to help raise the funds.



### ***Lincoln's birthday— the goal***

It is hoped that the entire amount will be raised by January first, and that the Barrett Lincoln Collection can be presented in the name of the people of Illinois to the State Historical Library on Lincoln's Birthday, February 12, 1951.

*"The people of Illinois can be expected to recognize this opportunity which the Barrett collection offers. They recognized one a half dozen years ago when funds were raised to obtain the Gettysburg Address in Lincoln's handwriting."*—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.





## *Every contribution is needed*

You will want to have a part in saving this priceless Lincoln collection for our generation and generations to come. If you do not have an opportunity to contribute through your community, please send your check or cash to

### *Barrett Lincoln Collection Fund*

*c/o Springfield Marine Bank  
Springfield, Illinois*

This fund is a not-for-profit corporation organized primarily to receive contributions for the purchase of this famous Lincoln Historical Collection.

## *Contributions are deductible*

Gifts are allowable deductions in computing federal income tax. Large contributors may extend their gifts over a period of three years—to February 12, 1952.

## *Lincoln Historical Fund Campaign*

### *Honorary Chairman*

Adlai E. Stevenson, *Governor of Illinois*

### *Co-Chairmen*

Newton C. Farr, *Chicago*

David B. Owen, *Peoria*

### *President*

George W. Bunn, Jr., *Springfield*

### *Treasurer*

George W. Bettinghaus, *Springfield*

### *Executive Director*

Frank Gingrich, *Chicago*

### *Executive Committee*

Paul M. Angle, *Chicago*

William H. Avery, Jr., *Chicago*

George W. Bunn, Jr., *Springfield*

J. Edward Day, *Springfield*

Irving Dilliard, *Collinsville*

Newton C. Farr, *Chicago*

David V. Felts, *Decatur*

John H. Hauberg, *Rock Island*

Clarence P. McClelland, *Jacksonville*

Karl A. Meyer, M.D., *Chicago*

Maurice H. Needham, *Chicago*

David B. Owen, *Peoria*

Carl Sandburg, *Flat Rock, North Carolina*

Alfred W. Stern, *Chicago*

Benjamin P. Thomas, *Springfield*

Scerial Thompson, *Harrisburg*

*"If the people of the state of Illinois want the Barrett collection for the State Historical Library at Springfield . . . they must produce the necessary funds . . . There will be generous gifts, but most of the money must come from many, many moderate contributions."*

*—Decatur (Illinois) Review*

## *Acknowledgment*

1. All organizations, groups and individuals contributing will receive official acknowledgments.
2. All organizations, groups and individuals contributing \$100 or more will have their names included in a published list to accompany the collection.
3. All organizations, groups and individuals contributing \$1,000 or more will have their names inscribed on a bronze plaque to be permanently associated with the collection. Listings will be made as follows:

Donors—\$1,000 to \$10,000

Sponsors—\$10,000 and over

*Checks or cash should be sent to:*

### *Barrett Lincoln Collection Fund*

*c/o Springfield Marine Bank*

*Springfield, Illinois*

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## *Lincoln Historical Fund Campaign*

*160 North LaSalle Street*

*Chicago 1, Illinois*

Organized to save the Barrett Lincoln Collection  
for Illinois and the Nation

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